

**Boğaziçi University**  
**Department of Political Science and International Relations**  
**SPRING 2022**  
**POLS 373.01: POLITICS AND CULTURE**  
**Prof. Dr. Hakan Yılmaz**

**Office:**  
**South Campus: IB 507B**

**Email: [yilmazh@boun.edu.tr](mailto:yilmazh@boun.edu.tr)**  
**Department web site: <http://www.pols.boun.edu.tr>**

**Senior Assistant: Enes Yapar (M.A. Student) (Room IB 208, Tel: (212) 359 6805, Email: [enes.yapar@boun.edu.tr](mailto:enes.yapar@boun.edu.tr).** Important Notice: You should normally contact Enes Yapar for all your course-related requests and inquiries. If you have to contact the instructor via email ALWAYS add Enes Yapar's email address as a cc to your message.

**Reading Material:** All the required readings will be made available online via the Moodle system of the university.

**Assessment:**

- a) **Exams:** A midterm exam (50%) and a final exam (50%), in multiple choice format.
- b) **Attendance:** Each **missed daily lecture session (1 or 2 hours, depending on the day)** would automatically take away **1 point** from your total numerical grade of 100 for the term. Hence, for example, if you missed 10 lecture hours, you would lose 10 points, meaning that your numerical term grade would be at most 90 out of 100, your letter term grade would go as high as BA and you won't be able to get an AA on this course.

**Textbook:** Andrew Heywood, *Politics* (Hampshire and New York: Palgrave, 4<sup>th</sup> and later editions)

**Online Lecture Hours:**

<b>THURSDAY</b> <b>6</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b> <b>6-7</b>
<b>14:00-14:50</b>	<b>14:00-14:50</b> <b>15:00-15:50</b>

**Online Office Hour**

<b>FRIDAY</b>
<b>17:00-17:50</b>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will examine how certain ideas (i.e., beliefs, opinions, tastes and preferences) have come to dominate people's hearts and minds and govern their actions. Are certain ideas more influential than others because they possess certain intrinsic qualities that make them so? Through which mechanisms and institutions are power relations produced and maintained or challenged and transformed in the realm of culture? Do power positions in the sphere of culture reflect power positions at the "deeper" layer of the economy or does culture have an autonomous life of its own? We are going to discuss those critical issues of politics in the light of the different frames of analysis developed by some well-known classical and contemporary theorists of culture. At each session all the students are expected to be ready and responsible to make a critical presentation of the reading materials, which will have a considerable influence on your final grade.

## A GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Dear members of the POLS 373 class,

I hope that every one of you and your families are in good health. These are difficult times, challenging our health, our jobs, our finances, our mental balances, our relations with families and friends. We will of course have to take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves and our loved ones from contamination. However, while protecting ourselves, we need to keep the following two points in mind: (1) These are demanding times but they are NOT our enemy. By this I mean that those difficult times are here for us to take our lessons, learn from our mistakes, enlighten ourselves, change the way we do things, grow up, and move on to a next and better stage in our lives. (2) Precisely because these are times of reflection and self-reflection, we have to take it easy, take it slow. It might consume some of our badly needed bodily and mental energies if we tried to outperform ourselves.

As a university, we have been making some adjustments with regard to teaching, grading and evaluation. We have agreed that “distance education” (NOT online education) will be the main method of education for the remainder of this semester. This means that we’ll do our teaching, interactions and evaluations without physically meeting in classrooms. We’ll do our teaching sessions online by means of ZOOM platforms.

Digital copies of all the required readings will be made available to the registered students.

There are some strict ground rules for the online lectures and Zoom sessions:

- 1) I will do the Zoom sessions during the regular class days and hours.
- 2) I will NOT put recorded versions of the lectures in the school’s system. So, if you miss a lecture it will be missed.
- 3) It’s absolutely NOT allowed to record the online lectures by any means, audio or visual, using your mobile phones etc., and it’s particularly forbidden to disseminate parts or wholes of the recorded lectures to your friends or publish them on the internet.
- 4) The Zoom sessions are open to the registered students of the class ONLY. It’s absolutely NOT allowed to invite any other person to listen to the lectures, even if he/she is a Boğaziçi student. Guests are not allowed.
- 5) Please note that I WILL take attendance for the regular lectures and I will form a positive opinion for those who actively participate in class discussions.

### **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The Department of Political Science and International Relations has the following rules and regulations regarding academic honesty.

1. Copying work from others or giving and receiving answers/information during exams either in written or oral form constitutes cheating.
2. Submitting take-home exams and papers of others as your own, using sentences or paragraphs from another author without the proper acknowledgement of the original author, insufficient acknowledgement of the consulted works in the bibliography, all constitute plagiarism.
3. Plagiarism and cheating are serious offenses and will result in:
  - a) an automatic "F" in the assignment or the exam
  - b) an oral explanation before the Departmental Ethics Committee
  - c) losing the opportunity to request and receive any references from the entire faculty
  - d) losing the opportunity to apply in exchange programs
  - e) losing the prospects of becoming a student assistant or a graduate assistant in the department

The students may further be sent to the University Ethics committee or be subject to disciplinary action.

**PART A) Defining the Basic Concepts of Cultural Analysis and Locating Culture in Relation to Politics, Society, and the Economy**

- 1) Lecture: Introducing the content of and the requirements for the course. Discussing various meanings of such important concepts as “culture”, “text”, “narrative”, “discourse”, and “myth”.
- 2) Karl Marx and Frederick Engels. “Feuerbach – Opposition of the Materialist and Idealist Outlook”. In the authors’ *The German Ideology. Part One*. Ed. By C.J. Arthur. Students Edition. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 1974, pp. 38-95. Written in 1845-1846
- 3) Antonio Gramsci. “The Intellectuals”. In *Selections from the Prison Notebooks of Antonio Gramsci*. Ed. and trans. by Quintin Hoare and Geoffrey Nowell Smith. London: ElecBook, 1999, pp. 131-161. Transcribed from the edition published by Lawrence & Wishart, London, 1971. Written in 1929-1935.
- 4) Max Weber. “Chapter Three: Types of Rule and Chapter Four: Social Ranks and Social Classes”. In the author’s *Economy and Society, A New Translation*. Ed. & Trans. by Keith Tribe, Boston, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019, pp. 335-457.
- 5) Pierre Bourdieu. “Symbolic Power and the Political Field”. In the author’s *Language and Symbolic Power*, Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1991, pp. 163-251.

**PART B) THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF AUTHORITARIANISM: The Frankfurt School Thinkers on the Cultural and Psychological Origins of Authoritarianism/Totalitarianism**

- 6) Arendt, Hannah. 1979 (1948). *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. New York: A Harvest Book, Harcourt Brace & Company. (Preface to Parts One, Two, Three; Part Three)
- 7) Fromm, Eric. *Escape from Freedom*. 1969 (1941). New York: Open Road (pp.9-18; 74-109; 145-155)

**PART C) THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF DEMOCRACY: American Political Science and the Invention of the Concept of Political Culture as a Precondition of Democracy: “Civic Culture”, “Postmaterial Culture”, “Western Civilization”**

- 8) Almond, Gabriel A. and Verba, Sidney. 1989 (1963). *Civic Culture: Political Attitudes and Democracy in Five Nations*. Newbury Park, California: Sage Publications. (pp 1-44; 337-363)
- 9) Inglehart, Ronald and Welzel, Christian. 2010. “Changing Mass Priorities: The Link between Modernization and Democracy”, *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 8, No. 2 (June 2010), pp. 551-567.